

Trifolium douglasii House

Douglas' clover
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G3G4S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): Perennial from a thick taproot, nonrhizomatous, usually glabrous. Stems generally several, erect, simple or subsimple, 16 to 32 inches tall. Stipules oblong-lanceolate, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, adnate to the petiole most of their length, the margins serrulate. Leaflets 3, linear to oblong-elliptic, $1\frac{2}{3}$ to 4 inches long, the margins very finely serrulate-spinulose. Petioles usually shorter than the stipules. Heads noninvolucrate, axillary as well as terminal and long-pedunculate, globose to ovoid-cylindric, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, as long to nearly twice as long, closely 50 to 200 flowered. Flowers erect, spreading, or the lowest reflexed, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, reddish-purple. Calyx $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{5}$ as long as the corolla, glabrous, the tube strongly 20-nerved, oblique, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as the subulate teeth. Upper pair of calyx teeth broader than the lower three and usually conspicuously curved downward. Sinuses between the lateral teeth deeper than that between the upper pair. Legume usually 1-seeded.

Identification Tips: *Trifolium douglasii* can be separated from other species of *Trifolium* by the following characters: perennial, flowers not subtended by a true involucre, leaflets 3, and the calyx tube with 20 prominent nerves.

Phenology: Blooms June through July.

Range: The historic range for this taxon was from Spokane County, Washington to Baker County, Oregon, east to adjacent Idaho. The species is currently known only from Garfield County, Washington, and Umatilla and Union counties in Oregon. There are several historic records for Whitman County, Washington all of which have most likely been converted to agricultural uses.

Habitat: Moist to wet meadows and forested wetlands, and streambanks. The elevation of the single known extant occurrence in Washington is 3900 feet.

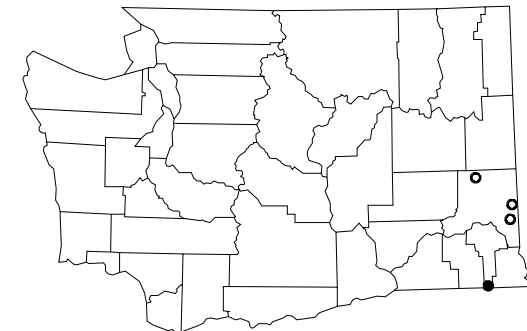
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Known distribution of
Trifolium douglasii in
Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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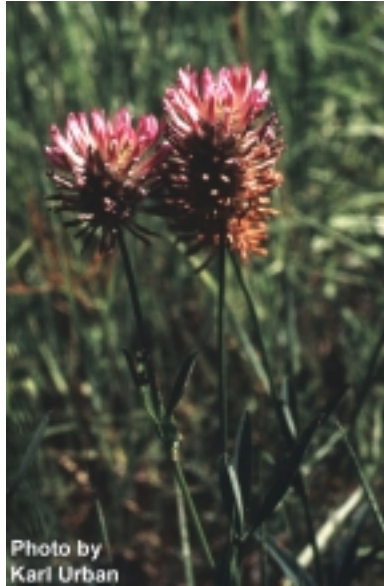


Photo by
Karl Urban

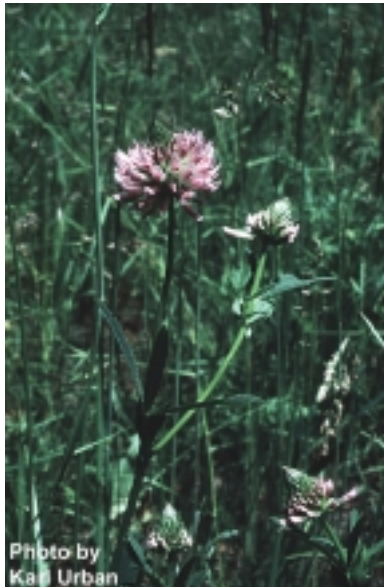


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Ecology: *Trifolium douglasii* is identified as a facultative wetland species by the USFWS (1988). It was probably well adapted to periodic flooding of its habitat. However, the historically known sites in Palouse bottomlands appear to have all but disappeared. The effects of fire on this species are not known. Fire during seed production would most likely have a negative impact.

State Status Comments: There is only one currently known, extant population in Washington.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed throughout the species' historical range, i.e., in extreme eastern Washington.

Threats and Management Concerns: *Trifolium douglasii* habitat has been severely impacted by conversion to agricultural uses and by invasion of exotic grass species.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1988. National list of vascular plant species that occur in wetlands. USFWS Biological Report 88 (24).